



Response Under 37 CFR 1.116
Expedited Procedure
Examining Group 1634

MAFF-1 RCE

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Hirohiko Hirochika et al.
Application No. : 09/721,114 Confirmation No. : 2997
Filing Date : November 22, 2000
For : NOVEL GENE INVOLVED IN BRASSINOSTEROID
RESPONSES
Group Art Unit : 1634
Examiner : Juliet C. Switzer

New York, New York
December 31, 2003

Hon. Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

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AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Sir:

This is in response to the October 3, 2003 Final Office Action issued in the above-identified application. A Response is due by January 5, 2004*. Thus, this Response is timely filed.

Kindly amend the application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 4 of this paper.

* The last day for responding to the communication is January 3, 2004, which is a Saturday. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.7(a), applicants may submit the response on the next business day.